

R E M A R K S

Claims 1-7, 11-14, and 17 are pending in the application. In the Office Action of December 20, 2005, the Examiner made the following disposition:

- A.) Rejected claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *U.S. Patent Application 2003/0030767* ("767") in view of *U.S. Patent No. 6,297,863* ("863").
- B.) Rejected claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over 767 in view of *U.S. Patent Application 2004/0183969* ("969").
- C.) Allowed claim 17.
- D.) Objected to claims 5-7.

Applicants respectfully traverse the rejections and address the Examiner's disposition below.

- A.) Rejection of claims 1-4 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over *U.S. Patent Application 2003/0030767* ("767") in view of *U.S. Patent No. 6,297,863* ("863"):
Claims 1-4 have been canceled without prejudice.
- B.) Rejection of claims 11-13 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being unpatentable over 767 in view of *U.S. Patent Application 2004/0183969* ("969"):
Claims 11-13 have been canceled without prejudice.
- C.) Allowance of claim 17:
Applicants respectfully acknowledge the Examiner's finding of allowable subject matter in claim 17.
- D.) Objected to claims 5-7:
Claims 5, 6, and 7 have each been amended to be placed in independent form including any base claims and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 5-7 are allowable.
Applicants respectfully submit the objection has been overcome and request that it be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, it is submitted that claims 5-7 are patentable. It is therefore submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. Notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

By: CHRISTOPHER P. RAUCH Reg. 45,034
Christopher P. Rauch
SONNENSCHEIN, NATH & ROSENTHAL LLP
P.O. Box #061080
Wacker Drive Station - Sears Tower
Chicago, IL 60606-1080
Telephone 312/876-2606
Customer #26263
Attorneys for Applicant(s)